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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a novel  
secreted polypeptide, termed Osteoprotegerin, which is a  
5 member of the tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily  
and is involved in the regulation of bone metabolism.  
Also disclosed are nucleic acids encoding  
Osteoprotegerin, polypeptides, recombinant vectors and  
host cells for expression, antibodies which bind  
10 Osteoprotegerin, and pharmaceutical compositions. The  
polypeptides are used to treat bone diseases  
characterized by increased resorption such as  
osteoporosis.

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